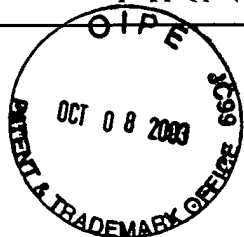


ARNOLD & PORTER



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555 Twelfth Street, NW
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October 8, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee-Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/615,606
Filed: July 13, 2000
Inventors: Mark S. ABAD *et al.*
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules
Associated with Plants
Atty. Docket: 16517.284

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Response;
2. Appointment of Associate Attorney; and
3. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docket number 16517.284. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Sincerely,

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)
Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. No. 47,755)

Enclosures